

GAMEDAYGUIDE

www.kstatecollegian.com | Friday, November 18, 2011 | K-State vs. Texas

HIGH STAKES

K-State vs. Texas matchup carries major implications for Cats



Evert Nelson | Collegian

The Wildcats celebrate after a touchdown during their game against Texas A&M on Nov. 12. On Saturday, K-State plays the Longhorns for a potential Cotton Bowl berth.

Mark Kern
sports editor

The Wildcats and Longhorns enter the football game in Austin on Saturday separated by just one game in Big 12 Conference standings. K-State (8-2, 5-2) will look to defeat the Texas Longhorns (6-3, 3-3) for their fourth straight win in the series. The past three wins for the Wildcats have been games that will be talked about for years. The first game was when Josh Freeman was a freshman

here at K-State. Texas came into that game ranked fourth in the country and was in the running for a potential championship berth. Colt McCoy, also a freshman at the time, got hurt on the very first play of the game and was unable to go back into the game. That meant another freshman Jevon Snead, who would end up transferring to Mississippi to finish his career, would come into the game. Freeman had what might have been his signature moment in a Wildcat victory as he threw

for 269 yards and had four total touchdowns in the 45-42 upset victory. The following year, the Wildcats entered the game as double-digit underdogs, but injured Colt McCoy for the second straight year and were able to pull the upset. The special teams and defense scored 21 points, including touchdown returns by Jordy Nelson and James Johnson. Last year, the Wildcats dominated the Longhorns and won the game 39-14. In what may

have been Collin Klein's coming-out party to the country as he rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns. The Wildcat defense was also outstanding as they intercepted the Longhorns five times and never allowed the Longhorns to get into any kind of rhythm. However, as exciting as those three victories have been for the Wildcats, the game on Saturday may just be the biggest of the four games. With a win over the Longhorns, the Wildcats would more

than likely cinch a Cotton Bowl berth, and still have a chance to possibly to play in a Bowl Championship Series bowl game. The Cotton Bowl puts the No. 2 Big 12 Conference team against the No. 2 Southeastern Conference team. With Oklahoma State currently in position to play for a national title, that would most likely mean that Oklahoma would get put in the Fiesta Bowl, leaving the Wildcats the opportunity to play in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

BY THE NUMBERS

Key numbers to think of during Saturday's game

5
-number of points scored by Texas in the loss to Missouri

The Texas offense, after averaging 47.5 points in their previous two games, was unable to get anything going against the Missouri defense last Saturday. To make matters worse was the fact that they lost senior running back Foswhitt Whittaker to an injury. With freshmen running backs Malcolm Brown and Joe Bergeron also injured, the Longhorns may have to count on quarterback David Ash and the passing game to defeat the Wildcats.

7
-number of interceptions on the season by Nigel Malone

An unknown at the beginning of the year, Malone has turned into a star on the defense. All of the experts knew how good David Garrett was going to be, but Malone has complemented Garrett very well and has taken the opportunity to play on the other side of Garrett. His interception against Texas A&M last week was a game-changer as the Aggies were up 14-0 and driving to take a three touchdown lead.

24
-number of rushing touchdowns for quarterback Collin Klein

Klein is only three rushing touchdowns away from setting the all-time single season rushing touchdowns by a quarterback. Former Navy quarterback Ricky Dobbs holds the record with 27. Klein last week had five rushing touchdowns in the overtime victory against the Texas A&M Aggies. Klein will be going up against one of the best rush defenses in the country in Texas. However, last year Klein rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns in the victory.

Klein brings balance to collective power of offense

Sean Frye
staff writer

Collin Klein has emerged as the ultimate leader of the Wildcats' offense and his numbers as well as his gutsy, bloody performances have led some to believe that he deserves consideration for the Heisman Trophy. Now the Wildcats face their last road game of the year before the bowl game, as well as their toughest opponent for the bowl game. Klein's leadership against the Longhorns this Saturday will be crucial as the Wildcats prepare not only to face one of the more dangerous, athletic teams in the Big 12 Conference, but also a crowd of 100,000. Klein delivered a performance for the ages last Saturday against Texas A&M, as he scored the team's last two touchdowns, including the game-winner, in a thrilling four-overtime game that the Wildcats won 53-50. Klein ended with six total touchdowns, five on the ground and one off of a 53-yard pass to Chris Harper, as well as 281 yards passing and 103 yards rushing. How he was not wheeled into the postgame press conference in an ice bath was beyond nearly everybody in the Vanier Sports Complex that night. "I think his fortitude and his genuine desire to continue to improve week in and week out — he really does take that seriously," said head coach Bill Snyder. "He strives to be the very best that he can be and all the other things we have talked about in here so readily, so often — leadership, toughness, etc." One aspect of Klein's game that has developed throughout the year is his passing ability. In the early parts of the year, his arm was constantly called into question, particularly after his performance against Eastern Kentucky. Klein is now coming off of two consecutive



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Collin Klein throws a pass during last Saturday's game against Texas A&M. The Cats won after four overtimes, 53-50.

career passing performances against Oklahoma State and Texas A&M, and now his arm will be crucial as he faces the Longhorns, the team he got his first career start against last year. "I think putting him in a position to do what he has done, the capacity to have some balance in our offense, which you are not as quite as predictable in terms of when you are going to throw it and when you are going to run it helps a great deal," Snyder said. "We have had some fine performances from some of our

receivers that have made some very, very fine catches as well. It is a collective thing. It is not Collin, it is everybody who is involved with it." Ultimately though, Klein's biggest threat comes from his legs. He has 1,009 yards total on the year, and averages 4.2 yards per carry. He also has 24 rushing touchdowns on the year, with many of those coming from inside the red zone. Not only is it Klein scoring, as the offensive line has been very effective in allowing Klein to get out of the backfield and into the end zone.

"First and foremost, you have five guys up front," Snyder said. "If they do not score, you do not score. They have to be able to do that now. The comforting level was the fact that you have four downs. Sometimes you have to be careful that you do not beat your head into a stone wall. We do not want to do that either. There was not any doubt in Mike Sherman's mind what we were going to do. Our guys were still able to accomplish that, so it is a real tribute to them. That is hard-nosed football when you get

down to that." So for Klein, who has earned the nickname "honey badger" due to his toughness and his resolve to win, his career at K-State will complete its first circle against Texas. Last year, the Wildcats ran over the Longhorns 39-14 in Klein's debut starting performance. As he earns more and more of the national spotlight, his performance on Saturday holds major implications for not just the Wildcats coming away with a victory, but for what bowl game the Wildcats will get to attend this holiday season.

160
-number of points given up by the Wildcats the past three weeks

After giving up 50 points in the quadruple overtime thriller, the Wildcats have given up at least 50 points in three consecutive games. That cannot happen again as the Wildcats will be facing an offense that has lost its identity due to injuries. If the Wildcats can get back to playing the kind of defense they were early in the season, than they should be in great position to get the victory.

218
-rushing yards by Cyrus Gray last week against the Wildcats

Gray, getting all of the carries due to the injury of Christine Michael, filled in nicely as he gashed the Wildcats constantly. His 63-yard rush in the fourth quarter, helped set up the Aggies with a 10 point victory with six minutes left. Texas, if their running backs are healthy, will look to try and run the ball.

281
-new career-high passing yards for Collin Klein

Last week, with the Wildcats down 10 with six minutes left, Klein hit Chris Harper in stride for a 53-yard touchdown to cut the lead to three points. As the season has progressed, Klein has shown that he is becoming more and more capable of being a successful passer. Against the Longhorns, he may be forced to throw the ball more as the the Longhorns have a good rushing defense.


-Compiled by Mark Kern

GAMEDAYGUIDE



K-STATE VS. TEXAS

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOV. 19, 7 P.M.
WHERE: DARRELL K ROYAL-TEXAS MEMORIAL STADIUM, AUSTIN, TEXAS
TELEVISION: FOX



MATCHING UP

K-STATE RUSH OFFENSE VS. TEXAS RUSH DEFENSE

Texas owns the league's best rush defense statistically, allowing 911 yards on the ground so far this season. Still, with the Longhorns having lost three of their last five games, it appears their front seven are not impenetrable. Last week, Missouri's backup Kendial Lawrence ran for 106 yards and a touchdown after Henry Josey was injured. In addition, it is doubtful that Texas has seen a ground game like what the Wildcats possess since losing 39-14 in Manhattan last season.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



TEXAS PASS OFFENSE VS. K-STATE PASS DEFENSE

Not only does Texas not throw the ball very much, but their receivers are not much healthier than their running backs. David Ash, who has become Texas' primary quarterback after an early-season competition with Case McCoy, has struggled in conference play. He has had four interceptions and no touchdowns in his last four games. Meanwhile, K-State's secondary has been among the worst in the Big 12.

ADVANTAGE: NEITHER



TEXAS RUSH OFFENSE VS. K-STATE RUSH DEFENSE

When everyone in the Longhorn backfield is healthy, that unit is amongst the best in the country. The problem is, "healthy" is not a word anyone would use to describe it right now. Foswhitt Whittaker is out for the season with a knee injury, Malcom Brown, the team's leading rusher, has not played in two weeks with an injured toe, and backup Joe Bergeron did not dress against Missouri either. These questions spell trouble against a generally dependable Wildcat rush defense.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



K-STATE SPECIAL TEAMS VS. TEXAS SPECIAL TEAMS

The Wildcats and Longhorns rank first and second in the Big 12, respectively, in kickoff returns. An exciting Saturday may be in store. K-State and Texas are nearly identical in almost every category. Both teams possess the ability to break a big return, and the upper hand in the game will go to the team that does. When K-State won in Austin in 2007, special teams deserved all the credit.

ADVANTAGE: NEITHER



K-STATE PASS OFFENSE VS. TEXAS PASS DEFENSE

Even though Collin Klein has thrown for 512 yards in the last two weeks, it is hard to see the Wildcats receiving corps having their way with the Longhorns, the same way they did at times with Texas A&M. Texas leads the conference in passing defense and has five different players with at least one interception. If K-State is to beat Texas through the air, it will probably need to be on play action passes when the running game is working.

ADVANTAGE: TEXAS



INTANGIBLES

It will be senior night in Austin and the Wildcats will probably be playing in front of the largest crowd it has in years. Texas will be motivated by the dominance K-State has had in the series as of late; the Wildcats have three straight victories over the 'Horns. Meanwhile, K-State has its sights set on locking up a birth in its first Cotton Bowl since 2001. But in a night game on the road, a win is a tall order to ask of the Wildcats.

ADVANTAGE: TEXAS



FINAL SCORE PREDICTION: 35-28 K-STATE

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Improvement in Wildcats’ run defense critical against Texas

Corbin McGuire
staff writer

K-State is coming off of a four-overtime win against the Texas A&M Aggies 53-50. It was the first overtime played in Bill Snyder Family Stadium and only the second in K-State football history. The program’s first overtime game was also against the Aggies in 1998 when the undefeated Wildcats lost the game and also a chance to play for a national title.

The Wildcats improved their struggling pass defense by only allowing the Aggies to throw for 210 yards for the game. The Aggies, however, found their success on the ground by running for 272 yards, the most the Wildcats have given up in any game this season.

The Wildcats, like they had in their two previous games, were down 14-0 before scoring their first points. The Wildcat defense, however, did not give up any points in the first quarter for the first time since the game against KU.

The Wildcat defense, after giving up 14 points, did not allow any more points before halftime. Collin Klein’s offense eventually got in rhythm and managed to even the score before halftime.

The K-State defense opened the second half by denying the Aggies points in two consecutive possessions before a Klein interception left the defense with only 10 yards to defend. The Aggies’ Cyrus Gray ran for 10 yards on the following play to put the Aggies up 21-14.

Another Wildcat turnover

put the defense on a short field and the Aggies capitalized with Gray running for another touchdown. Head coach Bill Snyder said after the game that the Wildcats did not learn their lesson from their game against Oklahoma State.

“You go back a week ago and we gave the ball up on the 5-yard line and 4-yard line, which is 14 points. That cost

“You go back a week ago and we gave the ball up on the 5-yard line and 4-yard line, which is 14 points. That cost us the ballgame.”

Bill Snyder
head football coach

us the ballgame,” Snyder said of his offense’s turnovers. “We turn around and do the same thing again this week. So it is something that we need to get better at, and that is coaching.”

The Wildcat defense came up with stops late in the game that allowed Klein to lead the offense down the field twice to tie the game before regulation ended. The Wildcats went back and forth with the Aggies in overtime until, in the fourth overtime, the Wildcat defense held the Aggies to a field goal. Klein, knowing a touchdown would win the game, willed his way into the end zone to give the team the victory.

The Wildcats go back on the road to face the Texas Longhorns. The Longhorns are coming off of a loss against the Missouri Tigers in a game where the Longhorns only scored five points. Snyder, at his weekly press conference, said that the Longhorns’ offense is one of balance, but it leans toward the run more often than not.

The Longhorns run game will be without Foswhitt Whittaker, who suffered a season-ending knee injury against the Tigers. Whittaker has the most rushing touchdowns for the Longhorns this season with six.

The Wildcats will come into the game as underdogs, but Snyder said that his team has beat the odds before and he thinks that will help.

“I cannot say that they know how the oddsmakers perceive it. If they are fortunate enough to overcome that, then I think they feel good about it,” Snyder said. “I think over the years we have probably distorted the oddsmakers’ vantage point. In other words, we have probably gone against the odds, whatever they were, more times than anyone.”

BJ Finney said he thinks K-State’s recent success against the Longhorns does not guarantee a win this year.

“Texas is a solid team this year,” Finney said. “We are going to have to come down and execute and play one of our best games.”

The Wildcats will face the Longhorns on senior day in Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium with a capacity to hold 100,119 people. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. and FX will televise the game.

Breaking down the Longhorns

Sean Frye
staff writer

The Texas Longhorns are coming off their third loss of the season, a 17-5 defeat at the hands of the Missouri Tigers last week. The Longhorns failed to score a touchdown, as they only converted on a 27-yard field goal and then a blocked punt that went out of the end zone for a safety.

Currently ranked No. 23 in the Bowl Championship Series and unranked in the AP and Coaches’ Poll, the Longhorns will look to get their season back on track

“They are a football team that maybe has a little more balance in their offense than what we have normally seen.”

Bill Snyder
head football coach

against the Wildcats on Saturday in Austin, Texas at 7 p.m. Oddsmakers are predicting that the Longhorns will in fact pull out a win on Saturday as they are nine-point favorites over No. 13 K-State.

The Longhorns are just 6-3 overall and 3-3 in Big 12 Conference play. They started off the season with a 4-0 record, beating Rice, BYU, UCLA and Iowa State. However, they have gone 2-3

since, as a 55-17 loss to Oklahoma seemingly derailed their season. They have since lost to Oklahoma State and Missouri while beating KU and Texas Tech.

Offensively, the Longhorns enter Saturday’s game with a limp, as it was announced that running back Foswhitt Whittaker will miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL.

While only racking up 386 yards total, he was averaging 5.8 yards-per-carry and had six touchdowns. The rushing game for the Longhorns will now fall onto the shoulders of Malcolm Brown and Joe Bergeron.

Quarterback controversy has also sidetracked the Longhorns’ offense this year. Garrett Gilbert, who became famous for replacing an injured Colt McCoy in the 2009 BCS National Championship game against Alabama, transferred to Southern Methodist University after being benched midway through the season. From there, David Ash and McCoy’s younger brother, Case McCoy, have been the primary signal-callers for Texas. Both have thrown for just three touchdowns, but Ash has been plagued with six interceptions to his record as well.

Overall, the Longhorns average 31.1 points per game and have the nation’s 15th best rushing attack, as they average 227.5 yards on the ground per game.

“They are a football team that maybe has a little more balance in their offense than what we have normally seen,” said head coach Bill Snyder, “maybe a little bit more skewed to the running game,

but certainly capable from the other aspects of it. I think from an offensive standpoint — very athletic offensive line with guys that can get out and run.”

As for the defensive side of the ball, Emmanuel Acho is the undisputed leader of the Longhorns, as he has racked up a team-best 87 tackles, including 15 tackles for a loss.

Defensive end Alex Okafor leads the team with six sacks.

“They do a lot more than what a lot of people would expect or anticipate,” Snyder said about Texas’ defense. “The nuances you see on tape that you might not see just watching a ballgame up here, so there is a lot of things that you have to be prepared for. They are fast, they run extremely well, they are athletic. They have some powerful people up front, and they have good range. These are all 6-foot-4-inch, 6-foot-5-inch guys up front. They have the strength and the ability to move rapidly. You put that all together, it makes it difficult.”

One of the biggest advantages the Longhorns will have in their matchup against the Wildcats is home-field advantage. Roughly 100,000 people, more than twice the amount that showed up last week at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, are anticipated to show up to watch their team take on the No. 13 team in the country. The Wildcats are doing their best to not let this affect their preparations.

“I think that it will be exciting,” said defensive back Allen Chapman. “I do not think that it will bother us too much.”

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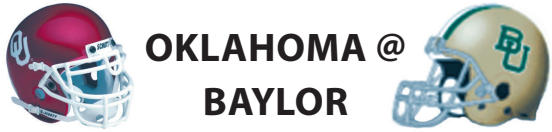
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Games to watch: Oregon looks for another marquee

Mark Kern
sports editor



The Sooners travel to Waco, Texas to take on Robert Griffin III and the Baylor Bears' high-flying offense.

Oklahoma is coming off a bye as they defeated Texas A&M in their last game two weeks ago. However, the win was overshadowed by the injury of all-time NCAA reception leader Ryan Broyles. Broyles tore his ACL in the win against the Aggies, ending his career sooner than he expected.

Kenny Stills, the Sooners' second leading receiver, is also bothered by a hamstring problem, and his status for Saturday's game is also in question.

This is going to put an emphasis on the Sooners' running game, led by Roy Finch. He must be able to run the ball and limit the Baylor offense from being on the field.

Baylor, for three quarters, was getting absolutely dominated by the Kansas Jayhawks. Entering the fourth quarter, the Bears had only mustered three points in Lawrence.

Griffin and the offense exploded for 21 points and nearly 300 yards in the fourth quarter to rally back and send the game to overtime, where the Bears held the Jayhawks on a two point conversion to win the game 31-30.

Baylor went through a funk with a couple of terrible games on offense, but Griffin has gotten the offense going, completing 70 percent of his passes and seven touchdowns.

If Griffin is able to keep up his play, the Sooners may be ripe for the upset.



The Tigers are coming off of an upset victory at home against Texas last week. The Tigers defense was able to hold the Longhorns offense without scoring a touchdown in a win that could have saved their season.

If the Tigers would not have won the game, then they would have been in serious jeopardy of not making a bowl game.

While Missouri appeared to have saved their season, the Red Raiders are on the verge of a historic collapse.

Coming off an amazing upset over then ranked No. 3 Oklahoma, Texas Tech has not been able to build off of that victory.

The Red Raiders have gotten blown out in their last three games by a combined score of 159 to 33. The Red Raider offense has not been able to move the ball like they had earlier in the season, and the defense has not been able to stop anybody.

Both teams are 5-5 on the season, and one victory by each team will make them bowl eligible.

The Red Raiders have shown the past couple of weeks that they are not playing with the passion necessary to win games, while the Tigers have continued to fight throughout the year.

With that being said, look for the Missouri Tigers to get the job done at home and become bowl eligible.

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Coming off of a dominating 53-30 victory over previously undefeated Stanford, the Ducks have jumped right back into the national title picture. With running back LaMichael James completely back from injury, the Ducks offense is as explosive as ever.

However, it was the performance of the Ducks' defense against the Cardinal that showed that this team is capable of getting back to the championship.

The defense sacked Heisman candidate Andrew Luck three times and forced five total turnovers during the match-up. The defense will look to have this same type of performance as they take on another explosive offense.

Matt Barkley and the Trojan offense enters Eugene, Ore. looking to continue their offensive explosion. Barkley set a school record with six touchdown passes two weeks ago in a victory against the Colorado Buffaloes.

The Trojans defense is improving, but they will need to take it to another level to stop the Oregon offense.

USC has the offense that can score points and hang around against the Oregon Ducks. In the end, the Oregon offense led by Darren Thomas and James will score too many points for USC and will win a wild shootout.



After struggling to start the season, the Buckeyes had started to play some good football. Last Saturday, the Buckeyes went back to their early-season form as they lost in overtime to a mediocre Purdue team.

However, the offense has shown that they are starting to turn the corner. Freshman Braxton Miller has emerged as the go-to guy at the quarterback position and has given the offense a spark that it needed. He will look to continue his strong play against a stingy Penn State defense.

After an exhausting week ended with a crushing 17-14 loss to Nebraska, the Nittany Lions look to get back to just playing football.

Penn State is led by Silas Redd, a junior running back that has proven to be a workhorse.

The key to this game will be whether or not Miller can have a solid game against that Penn State defense. Look for Miller to make just enough plays for the Buckeyes and for Penn State to lose their second straight football game.



The two teams meet at The Big House with identical records of 8-2, 4-2.

The Wolverines may be without quarterback Denard Robinson, who sustained an injury in the game against Illinois.

Quarterback Devin Gardner filled in nicely for Robinson as he hit Martavious Odoms for a fourth quarter touchdown to put the game out of reach for the Wolverines.

Nebraska is coming off of a 17-14 victory over Penn State during an emotional day last Saturday in Happy Valley.

The defense was able to hold the Nittany Lions as they tried to drive from a 17-0 deficit for the win in the game's final minutes.

These two teams match up nicely, but with the game at home for Michigan, look for the Wolverines to escape with a close victory.

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